**Telephone Facilities in the Village Panchayats of Punjab**

17. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections installed in the Panchayat villages in the country, particularly in Punjab during the period from 1990 to 1993 giving the details thereof, State-wise Union-territory-wise/District-Panchayat-wise;

(b) the names of those Panchayats where the telephone facilites are not available in Punjab as on 31st December, 1993; and

(c) what effective measures Government have taken or are proposed to be taken to provide telephone connections in all Panchayat villages in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) (i) As on 31-12-93, the No. of Panchayat villages covered with telephones in the country is 1,10,591. Details are given in Statement I (*See* below)

(ii) During the period from April 1990 to December 1993, 6,470 Panchayat villages in Punjab have been covered with telephone facility. Details are given in statement II (*See* below).

(b) 5,273 Panchayat villages in Punjab are not having telephone facility as on 31-12-1993. Selection of these Panchayat villages depends on Technical Feasibility.

(c) All the Panchayat villages in the Punjab are proposed to be provided with reliable telephone facility by 31-03-1995 progressively subject to availability of resources.

**Statement-I**

*Providing Telephone Facility to Panchayat Villages Status as on 31-12-1993.*

| Sl. No. | Circles | Total No. of Panchayat Villages | Panchayat Villages with Telephone Facilities As on 31.3.91 | Achievement 1991-92 | Achievement During 92-93 | Achievement Upto 31.12.93 During the Year 1993-94 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 19533 | 8231 | 1903 | 1961 | 633 |
| 2. | Assam | 2485 | 323 | 342 | 555 | 305 |
| 3. | Bihar | 11762 | 3308 | 1005 | 1265 | 632 |
| 4. | Gujarat Including Dadra Nagar Haveli | 13147 | 2377 | 1576 | 1755 | 1706 |
| 5. | Harayana | 5792 | 1329 | 1251 | 981 | 676 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 2597 | 813 | 111 | 205 | 119 |
| 7. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1461 | 347 | 125 | 126 | 033 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 8335 | 3373 | 1068 | 1207 | 702 |
| 9. | Kerala Including Lakshdweep | 982 | 961 | 21 | All Panchayats Villages covered with telephone facility by March 1992 | |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 23523 | 4287 | 4005 | 3668 | 552 |
| 11. | Maharashtra Including Goa | 24937 | 4559 | 3172 | 2881 | 1543 |
| 12. | North East | 4084 | 176 | 300 | 519 | 217 |
| 13. | Orissa | 4411 | 1467 | 1064 | 1230 | 249 |
| 14. | Punjab | 11743 | 1029 | 901 | 2126 | 2414 |
| 15. | Rajasthan | 7562 | 2448 | 1287 | 1811 | 608 |
| 16. | Tamilnadu Including Pondicherry | 13288 | 6682 | 1160 | 2157 | 423 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17. Uttar Pradesh | 73741 | 3703 | 2725 | 7037 | 1380 |
| 18. West Bengal Including Sikkim & A&N Island | 3486 | 961 | 601 | 579 | 155 |
| 19. Delhi M.T.N.L. | 191 | 046 | 136 | 90 | All Panchayat Villages Covered by March 1993. |
| TOTAL: | 233060 | 46,420 | 21,752 | 30.072 | 12,347 |

The policy regarding Panchayat villages was adapted in the year 1991.

**Statement-II**

*Details of Village Panchayats in Punjab provided with Telephones during April 1990 to December 1993.*

| Sl. No. | District | Nos. of Gram Panchayat provided with telephone connections |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Amritsar | 738 |
| 2. | Bathinda | 270 |
| 3. | Mansa | 213 |
| 4. | Ferozepur | 716 |
| 5. | Faridkot | 252 |
| 6. | Hoshiarpur | 565 |
| 7. | Ropar | 122 |
| 8. | Jalandhar | 719 |
| 9. | Kapurthala | 130 |
| 10. | Ludhiana | 575 |
| 11. | Gurdaspur | 672 |
| 12. | Patiala | 537 |
| 13. | Fatehgarh Sahib | 154 |
| 14. | Sangrur | 705 |
| 15. | Chandigarh (U.T.) | 103 |
| | TOTAL | 6470 |

**Expansion of Telecom Network in the Country**

18. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom network in the country is expected to grow to over 20 million lines by the year 2000 and 60 million lines by the first decade of 21st century;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have provided telephone connections to those persons who had registered the same in the country including in Punjab, as on 31st December, 1993; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, Statewise and city-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The telecom. demand projections indicate that telecom. network will grow over 20 million lines by 2000 AD, and exceed 48 millions by 2005. Demand projections for the period beyond 2005 AD have not been worked out.

(c) No, Sir

(d) The objective of the current five year plan (1992-97) is to achieve by the end of the plan period

(i) provide telephones practically on demand in rural & tribal areas.

(i) waiting period for telephone connections not to exceed two years in large telephone systems.

The circlewise and citywise programme is chalked out on year to year basis based on these objectives subject to availability of resources.